

APR 18 2006

PATENT  
Docket No. 110.02090101IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	SCHMIDT et al.	)	Group Art Unit:	1764
		)		
Serial No.:	10/620,183	)	Examiner:	In Suk C. Bullock
Confirmation No.:	8654	)		
		)		
Filed:	July 15, 2003	)		
		)		
For:	CATALYTIC PARTIAL OXIDATION OF HYDROCARBONS			

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed January 3, 2006, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-11), drawn to a process for the production of a compound comprising a carbon. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement. It is respectfully submitted that the inventions as claimed can be readily evaluated in one search without placing undue burden on the Examiner. That is, all the claims are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the others. Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 1-11 (i.e., Group I) are generic to both the species disclosed in claims 12-56 (Group II) and the species disclosed in claims 57-75 (i.e., Group III). Applicants reserve the right to pursue examination of any non-elected claims (e.g., claims 12-75) in continuation and/or divisional applications.

For elected Group I, the Examiner further required an election of patentably distinct species. Applicants elect, with traverse, the species disclosed in Group II (claims 12-56), directed to producing an alkene/alpha-olefin. Applicants traverse on the grounds that the generic claim includes sufficiently few species that a search and examination of all the species at one time would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants further submit that all the elected claims (i.e., claims 1-11) are readable on the elected species.